

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5244  
USMISSION GENEVA  
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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: AORG  
SUBJ: GAO FOLLOWUP REVIEW: "PROGRESS AND ASSESSMENT ON RECOMMENDATIONS

CONTAINED IN GAO REPORTS ON U.S. PARTICIPATION IN UN SYSTEMS"

REF: STATE 214165

1. GAO STAFFERS PLAN TO VISIT ROME SEPTEMBER 25-29 AS PER PARA. 3 OF REFTTEL IS SUITABLE TO EMBASSY AND FODAG. HOWEVER, WOULD SUGGEST THAT A NUMBER OF THEIR 1977 RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERN MATTERS WHICH CAN BE BETTER FOLLOWED-UP IN WASHINGTON THAN HERE. THIS APPLIES PARTICULARLY TO (1) WASHINGTON COORDINATION OF U.S. PARTICIPATION IN FAO; (2) WASHINGTON MACHINERY FOR BUDGETARY REVIEW; (3) WASHINGTON ACTIONS TO RECRUIT MORE PEOPLE INTO FAO SYSTEM (E.G., MEASURES SUCH AS THOSE RECOMMENDED BY FODAG LAST DECEMBER ).

2. WITH RESPECT TO WHAT HAS BEEN DONE ON PERSONNEL PLACEMENT, 90 PERCENT OF ACTION UNDERTAKEN SINCE 1977 GAO REPORTS CAPABLY HANDLED BY FORMER DEPUTY REP TO FAO CHARLES HIGGINSON NOW IN WASHINGTON PREPARING FOR FUTURE ASSIGNMENT.

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3. PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTION FODAG BELIEVES IT COULD MAKE TO GAO STAFFERS FOLLOW-UP WOULD BE TO DESCRIBE U.S. EFFORTS WITH GENEVA GROUP ON P.H.L. PROGRAM, 1978-79 BUDGET, AND NOW 1980-81 BUDGET. U.S. REP COULD ALSO PROVIDE BRIEFING ON OUR PRIORITIES VIS-A VIS WFP, IFAD, AND WFC AS DESIRED. HOWEVER, THIS SHOULD TAKE NO MORE THAN HALF A DAY IF STAFFERS HAVE DONE THEIR WASHINGTON HOMEWORK.

4. GAO STAFFERS SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT U.S. REP WILL BE HANDLING ALONE ENTIRE RANGE OF ACTION RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ALL FOUR ORGANIZATIONS DURING WEEK OF SEPT. 25-29, WHILE PREPARING AT SAME TIME FOR MONTH OF ALMOST CONTINUED MEETINGS OF GOVERNING BODIES OF FAO, WFP, AND IFAD. (DEPUTY POSITION VACANT ; USDA HAS WITHDRAWN CRUIT; ROSENTHAL WILL BE AT FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN DAR; AND MOORE ON CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON).

5. IF GAO STAFFERS BELIEVE THEY NEED TO CONSULT WITH FAO ON U.S. PARTICIPATION IN FAO, FODAG BELIEVES THIS SHOULD BE HANDLED PRIMARILY THROUGH INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS OUTSIDE OF FAO ITSELF WITH EXPERIENCED AMERICAN FAO EMPLOYEES. U.S. REP PREPARED TO FACILITATE THIS AND TO DISCUSS SELECTED ADDITIONAL CONTACTS.

6. FODAG WILL BE IN BETTER POSITION TO DISCUSS ACTION PROGRAM CONCEPT WITH GAO IF IT HAS HAD OPPORTUNITY TO SEE AND COMMENT ON FINAL DRAFT OF ACTION PROGRAM FOR ROME AGENCIES. WHILE U.S. REP COMMENTED ON AN EARLY DRAFT IN WASHINGTON IN MAY, NO SUBSEQUENT DRAFTS HAS BEEN RECEIVED HERE THIS SUMMER.

7. WITH REGARD TO STUDY MENTIONED IN PARA .6 OF REFTTEL, U.S. REP WILL BE, IN SPIRIT, PLEASED TO BE HELPFUL. HOWEVER, WITH EXCEPTION OF OTHER GAO TEAM, HE WILL BE ALONE IN LATE SEPTEMBER AND DURING MOST OF OCTOBER ALMOST CONSTANTLY OUT OF THE OFFICE AT SESSIONS OF PROGRAM COMMITTEE AND OF CFA. FURTHERMORE, MOST UNCLASSIFIED

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OF ANSWERS NEEDED FOR THIS STUDY ARE AVAILABLE IN WASHINGTON WITH BYRNES, WOLF, HIGGINSON, LARRY ROSEN (AID) AND ED MARTIN (FORMERLY OF CGFPI) AS PRIME SOURCES WITH AN ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT SOURCE TO BE AVAILABLE AT END SEPTEMBER IN PERSON OF HARRY WALTERS, RETIRING DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THW ROLD FOOD COUNCIL. IN FODAG'S JUDGEMENT, IF THESE SOURCES PROPERLY UTILIZED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THROUGH REVIEW OF RELEVANT WFC, IFAD, CGFPI, FAO AND WFP(CFA) 1974-78 DOCUMENTATION, BELIEVE RELATIVELY FEW QUESTIONS WILL REMAIN FOR STUDY IN ROME. FODAG THEREFORE RECOMMENDS THAT GAO BE INFORMED OF VERY LIMITED TIME AND FACILITIES IT ABLE TO PROVIDE IN INDICATED PERIOD AND DESIRABILITY IN TERMS OF PRIME SOURCES AND OF USG EXPENDITURE OF PURSUING BULK OF STUDY IN WASHINGTON.

8. IN OUR VIEW , OVER AND ABOVE PROBLEM OF LIMITED FODAG TIME AVAILABLE., IT WOULD BE DAMAGING TO OUR INTERESTS AND OUR IMAGE IN THE MULTILATERAL AGENCIES HERE TO HAVE A TEAM OF GAO INVESTIGATORS HERE IN A BUSY AND SENSITIVE MONTH WHOSE SHEER NUMBERS EXCEEDED THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS THE USG IS ABLE TO FIELD HERE IN ROME TO HANDLE THE SAME ISSUES THEY ARE INVESTIGATING. THUS, WE WOULD URGE THAT THE GAO ENVISAGE A ROME STOP AT END OF THEIR INVESTIGATION. ONE OR, AT MOST, TWO WELL-BRIEFED TEAM MEMBERS MIGHT

THEN SPEND A WEEK OR SO PURSUING SUCH QUESTIONS AS THEY MAY NOT  
HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ANSWER FULLY IN WASHINGTON. LAST HALF OF NOVEMBER  
AFTER COUNCIL IS OVER IS PERIOD IN WHICH FODAG MIGHT BEST BE  
ABLE TO BE HELPFUL.HOLMES

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